



MEDIA RELEASE

SLR PRODUCTIONS GREENLIGHTS TWO NEW 'HOLIDAY SPECIALS' OF ITS AWARD-WINNING ANIMATED SERIES GUESS HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU – *The Adventures of Little Nutbrown Hare* WITH RETURNING CO-PRODUCTION PARTNER KIKA-DER KINDERKANAL, SUPPORTED BY ARD'S HR

2 x 26 minute Easter and Christmas Themed 'Holiday Specials'

Sydney, Australia – October 11 2016...

SLR Productions, one of Australia's leading children's and family entertainment companies, is delighted to announce the production of two x 26 minute 'Holiday Specials' of its award-winning, internationally acclaimed preschool animated series, ***GUESS HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU - The Adventures of Little Nutbrown Hare***.

KiKA-Der Kinderkanal will again be a co-production partner with support from one of KiKA's parent companies, HR-Hessischer Rundfunk of ARD. The newly commissioned 'Holiday Specials' have been acquired by ABC KIDS and ABC Commercial locally with 9 Story Media Group distributing the Easter and Christmas specials internationally.

Following the huge success of the classic preschool series comprising 78 x 11 mins which has been broadcast in over 180 countries, the 'Holiday Specials' will be produced once again by SLR Productions' award-winning team consisting of Executive Producer Suzanne Ryan, Producer Yasmin Jones, Director Jo Boag, Script Producer Melanie Alexander and Written by both Melanie Alexander and David Evans.

"I am incredibly proud of these two 'Holiday Specials' and thrilled to be working together again with Executive Producer partners Sebastian Debertin and Tina Sicker of KiKA-Der Kinderkanal. The 'Holiday Specials' represent the beauty and magic of Easter and Christmas, reminding us that being with family, friends and the ones you love is the greatest gift of all. Little White Fawn and The Long Journey Home are enchanting themed specials that are a delightful extension to seasons one and two of this classic preschool show," said Suzanne Ryan, Executive Producer and CEO of SLR Productions.

Sebastian Debertin, Head of Fiction, Acquisitions & Co-Productions of KiKA-Der Kinderkanal said "Guess How Much I Love You is a huge success here in German speaking Europe not only but especially because of the beautiful series SLR produced with KiKA. To enlarge the brand into a new dimension and the wish to have even more time to tell stories brought us to the idea of coming up with these two wonderful specials, allowing KiKA to also bring great and entertaining stories for bank holidays with Little Nutbrown Hare and his friends!"

"We are thrilled to be distributing the new *Guess How Much I Love You* 'Holiday Specials' from SLR Productions and KiKA-Der Kinderkanal," said Natalie Osborne, Chief Strategy Officer for 9 Story Media Group. "They are an absolutely beautiful complement to the series and will undoubtedly become cherished holiday traditions."

Little White Fawn – A Classic Animated Easter Special

When Little Nutbrown Hare sees a pure white fawn dancing in the moonlight, he is so excited he wants his friends to see it too. They all wait excitedly the following night, but when the

fawn does not turn up, his friends start to think Little Nutbrown Hare has imagined the whole event.

Intent upon finding the fawn, our hero leads his friends on a quest to the 'place of magical white creatures'. Just when everyone is losing heart, they find the tiny white deer and save her when she falls into a stream of fast flowing melt-water. Set against a background of the Winter snow melting into Spring, the story ends happily as the tiny white fawn joins the meadow friends for games amongst the new Spring flowers.

The Long Journey Home – A Classic Animated Christmas Special

On a bright and sparkling Christmas Eve, Little Nutbrown Hare and his friends Little Field Mouse, Little Redwood Fox and Little Grey Squirrel are frolicking happily in the snow-covered meadow when they stumble across a baby brown bear who is lost and sad. Determined to return their little friend home to his family in time for Christmas, the young heroes venture bravely through the woods and across the valley into the unknown. This epic adventure will touch the hearts of young and old alike, as our friends let nothing stand in the way of reuniting Little Brown Bear with his family, before making their own way home. Throughout this delightful journey we are reminded that the greatest gift of Christmas is being with the ones you love.

The 'Holiday Specials' are based on the bestselling book, GUESS HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU™, published by The Walker Books Group and written by Sam McBratney and illustrated by Anita Jeram. The book, which is published in 53 languages, has sold 32 million copies globally and in 2014 celebrated its 20th anniversary. The animated series relates the adventures of the Nutbrown Hares and their friends with the same endearing charm and love that has made the book a timeless story time favourite.

SLR PRODUCTIONS

SLR Productions is one of Australia's leading Emmy and multi award winning children's entertainment companies, specialising in the creative development and production of world-class media content. SLR Productions is recognised for brands such as the internationally acclaimed preschool property Guess How Much I Love You; the animated adventure comedy series The Skinner Boys –Guardians of the Lost Secrets; the animated twin detective series Lexi and Lottie – Trusty Twin Detectives and the Emmy Award winning animated series I Got a Rocket. SLR's passion is to make creative, adventurous, imaginative and exciting programmes for audiences worldwide. Established in 2002 by CEO, Suzanne Ryan, SLR Productions has produced more than 160 hours of content sold in more than 100 countries. With its highly experienced development and production divisions, SLR partners with major broadcasters, producers, distributors, publishers and creative both locally and internationally to create hit shows with a truly global reach.

9 Story Media Group is a leading content creator, marketer and distributor of kids & family focused intellectual property. Recognized around the world for best-in-class brands such as *Daniel Tiger's Neighbourhood*, *Wild Kratts*, *Numb Chucks* and *Peg + Cat*, 9 Story represents over 2,150 half hours of animated and live action programming, seen on some of the most respected international channels and platforms. With one of North America's largest animation studios, 9 Story employs over 300 creative and production staff in its Toronto facility and has produced over 900 half hours of award-winning children's content. In 2015, 9 Story acquired the award winning animation studio Brown Bag Films, which employs over 200 staff members across Dublin, Manchester and Los Angeles. Brown Bag is recognized for producing leading animated children's series such as *Octonauts*, *Doc McStuffins*, *Bing* and *Henry Hugglemonster*. 9 Story is owned by senior management, ZMC (Zelnick Media Capital) and media entrepreneur Neil Court. www.9story.com

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